

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Thursday, January 18, 2007

MICHAEL S. PINTO CONFERENCE ROOM

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Members Present: Michael F. Crowley, Jr., Chairman

Liana F. Fenton, Vice-Chair

William Coogan

Edward K. Draper

Theresa M. Spengler

Also Present: Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Supt of Schools

Joseph P. Maruszczak, Asst Supt

Catherine M. McLeish, Business Manager

Edward Collins, Facilities Director

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chairman Michael Crowley. Administrative staff members present were Stephen Ponte, Gail Abromitis and Michelle Fonseca.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

No “Spotlight on Teaching and Learning” for January 18, 2007.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

- **Student Awards – The School Committee honored the Division IV State Championship football team. Steve Ponte introduced each player, who was presented with a patch or medal from the School Committee. Coach Andy Leys was named Coach of the Year for the second time.**

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No “Student Activities” for January 18, 2007.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted items of information from the School Committee package:

- **Article 31 dollars have been approved.**
- **A joint information session hosted by EBEC with area legislators will be held on February 2nd.**

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CORRESPONDENCE

No Correspondence for January 18, 2007.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Edward Draper. To approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimous vote.

- Approval of Minutes of December 19, 2006 School Committee Meeting**
- Approval of Minutes of December 19, 2006 Executive Session**
- Approval of Financial Report, dated December 31, 2006, in the amount of \$11,645,746.83**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated December 14, 2006, in the amount of \$1,946.91**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated December 18, 2006, in the amount of \$740.99**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated December 22, 2006, in the amount of \$42,814.68**
- Approval of Special Grants Register, dated December 28, 2006, in the amount of \$16,320.63**

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

APPOINTMENT

Stephen Tetzloff Custodian II, Floater

**CHANGE IN MATERNITY LEAVE - ARTICLE XIV, C, OPTION #1
(NEA/Middletown)**

Keith A. Holubesko History, Middletown High School

Change in start date to February 26, 2007

Diane Lukowicz Kindergarten, Aquidneck School

Return date changed from December 2006 to January 2007

FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT

Patricia King Guidance Counselor, Aquidneck School

From January 18, 2007 to March 1, 2007

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TRANSFER

David Beebe Facilities Management Department

**From Gaudet School Night Custodian II to Forest Avenue School
Night Custodian II**

Michael Dinagen Facilities Management Department

**From Forest Avenue School Night Custodian II to Gaudet School
Night Custodian II**

ACTION ITEMS

HIGH SCHOOL POLICY – 1ST READING

**MOTION: 1) William Coogan, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School
Committee approve the High School Policy – 1st Reading.
Unanimous vote.**

**Mr. Maruszczak reported that this was an area where the high school
was lacking as noted by the peer review. For a community to have a
diploma certified by 2008, there needs to be School Committee policy.**

**The policy will detail what the requirements are as to the number of
Carnegie units and community service requirements. The policy will
clearly outline how transfer students will meet Graduation by
Proficiency requirements. The appeal process is also outlined. If a
student is denied a diploma, a detailed policy needs to be in place.**

**Mr. Coogan asked if the policy addresses the number of hours each
year a student must perform community service. Mr. Maruszczak will
meet with Michaela Kennedy, School-Based Coordinator, next week
to review the community service requirements for each grade. Mr.
Draper asked if the electronic portfolio is compatible with other
districts. Mr. Maruszczak said it is portable in 22 other district in the
state.**

TITLE I PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY – 2ND READING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Title I Parent Involvement Policy - 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee approve the Capital Improvement Program. Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Kraeger provided backup on each project. Mrs. McLeish said a new program, “Planet”, collates all aspect of the Capital Improvement Program in a way that is easier to understand.

APPOINTMENT OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE CLERK

MOTION: 1) William Coogan, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee appoint Rosemarie K. Kraeger as Clerk to the School Committee. Unanimous vote.

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OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business for January 18, 2007.

NEW BUSINESS

- **BUDGET WORKSHOP DATES/GOALS** – The following tentative budget dates have been provided until they are approved by the School Committee:

Thursday, February 1, 2007 5:00 p.m. Budget Workshop

**Thursday, February 15, 2007 5:00 p.m. Budget Workshop
7:00 p.m. Regular School Committee Meeting**

**Thursday, March 15, 2007 5:00 p.m. Budget Workshop
7:00 p.m. Regular School Committee Meeting**

Thursday, March 22, 2007 5:00 p.m. Approval of Budget

- **ATHLETIC POLICY REGARDING SPORTS TEAMS** – Mr. Draper has researched and found many policies on coaching and volunteer coaching. A subcommittee will be developed to explore the problematic issues with coaching assignments. If there are volunteer coaches, a policy needs to be developed on selection, supervision and other issues that might arise. Feedback from parents and students will be utilized. There was a question as to whether the volunteer policy should be for all school clubs or just for sports. It was suggested that the policy have subcategories for sports and

clubs. The ratio of athletes to adults needs to be reviewed for safety reasons. There will be a first reading of this policy at the February 15th School Committee Meeting. Mr. Draper said that according to State statute, “Duties of Coach – Preseason Lecture”, the head coach is required to give a lecture about alcohol/ substance abuse. A waiver or sign-in sheet should be used to verify that all athletes have attended the lecture.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS

- **CURRICULUM** – Mr. Maruszczak reported that the High School Math Department will work to prepare the 11th grade students for the March State Assessment. 175 copies of math and ELA State Assessments practice tests have been ordered. They will be administered as an instructional tool. “Plato”, an on-line math support, will be used to do intensive work targeting students with IEP’s. Mr. Maruszczak is investigating a math ramp-up program for Fall implementation.

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- **FINANCIAL** – Mrs. Kraeger thanked Mr. Collins and his custodial staff, as well as the school nurses, for their assistance in preparing the schools for the possibility of flu outbreak. The custodial staff

installed hand sanitizer dispensers in every classroom on Sunday afternoon.

As of December 31st, 34.65% of the budget has been expended. The School Committee and Town Council were briefed last night regarding the new impact of the 5.25% tax levy. Lower revenues are expected due to decreased Impact Aid funding. Impact Aid is the biggest loss of revenue with an expected \$1.3 shortfall. The military count is significantly down with the Anchorage Housing being privatized. Mrs. Kraeger thanked Mrs. McLeish and Mr. Brown for their work on the school and municipal budget.

• FACILITIES – The Core Facilities Committee met on January 29th and is working on a vision statement.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee receive the Superintendent's Reports. Unanimous vote.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Mrs. Fenton – Attended a Career Tech Meeting on January 12th, where they discussed the NEASC Report and concerns about the facility and the future of the Career Center.

On January 24th from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m., Mrs. Fenton will attend a Career Tech Forum.

Mrs. Fenton has been a Capstone judge at Middletown High School.

Mr. Draper attended a Safety Advisory Committee Meeting. The committee reviewed data on alcohol and drug use in the town, presented by Mr. Maruszczak. The committee will work with the Middletown Substance Abuse Task Force to combine efforts. A MSATF Coordinator will be hired shortly.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) William Coogan. To adjourn from School Committee Meeting 8:06. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger

Clerk